
Bagram News Express

Fighting Terror, Building Peace



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Airman reaches combat milestone

By Staff Sgt. Rachel Martinez
455th Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs

BAGRAM AIR FIELD, Afghanistan — It took 7 years and 15 deployments for one Airman here to reach a milestone few in his career field hit.

Tech. Sgt. Justin Jackson, a cryptologic linguist assigned to the 41st Expeditionary Combat Squadron here hit and surpassed 2,000 hours of combat flight in the EC-130H Compass Call.

"I would guess that only about 25 percent of my career field obtains this milestone," said the Colorado Springs, Colo. native. "But, I see this milestone as just another day on my career. The mission was just another mission, supporting our guys on the ground, doing what we can to help keep them safe."

Sergeant Jackson said that some people in his field have double, triple or quadruple the number of combat hours. The high number of combat hours is evidence of the relentless hard work performed by the men and women deployed in the area of operations.

Sergeant Jackson's first combat sortie was in October of 2001 with the kick-off of Operation Enduring Freedom. Almost 200 sorties later, he is back doing the same mission - continuing to fight the insurgents.

"I think it is fitting to hit this milestone in the same airspace that I started - It kind of brings it full-circle," he said. "My first combat sortie scared me because I had no idea what to expect. This sortie was different because now I know what to expect when I get on the aircraft, and how to deal with the different issues that show up on missions."

Sergeant Jackson is deployed from the 42nd Electronic Combat Squadron at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Ariz.

"The best part of my job is knowing that what I do has a direct impact on the guys on the ground," he said. "It either keeps them safe or just provides a way to put lead on targets."

Be financially prepared with Eaglecash SVC

Effective Aug. 1, 2008, all deployed personnel (military, civilian and contractors) utilizing Air Force finance office services within the USCENTCOM AOR are required to have the Eaglecash Stored Value Card and are highly encouraged to use it. Eaglecash SVC promotes deployed financial readiness and meets strategic operational goals in the battlespace.

The Eaglecash SVC is a free financial cash management tool provided by the USAF to support deployed personnel. The Eaglecash SVC must be linked to a checking account in order to fully maximize the benefits and financial flexibility of the program. The program provides deployed personnel with around the clock fee free access to personal funds, elevated security of personal financial information and allows card to card transfers between members. With more than 30 kiosks and 310 Points of Sale in the USCENTCOM AOR, Finance is no longer the only location where individuals must go to access their personal funds to meet their financial needs.

Night ops with Pave Hawks



An aircrew arrives at an HH-60 Pave Hawk here on July 17, 2008. All HH-60Gs have an automatic flight control system, night vision goggles with lighting and forward looking infrared system that makes it possible to conduct night operations such as this.



Above: Capt. Brock Roden of the 33rd Expeditionary Rescue Squadron loads his M-4 rifle in an HH-60G Pave Hawk here on July 17, 2008. Captain Roden is deployed from the 38th Rescue Squadron, Moody Air Force Base, Ga.

Right: Airman 1st Class Devin Chesbro, 33rd Expeditionary Rescue Squadron flight engineer, runs preflight checklists here on July 17, 2008. Airman Chesbro is tasked with operational support to pilots as well as manning one of the two .50 caliber machine guns and is deployed from the 33rd Rescue Squadron, Kadena Air Base, Japan.



Above: Capt. Jennifer Aupke (left), aircraft commander and flight lead, and 1st Lt. Thaddeus Ronnau (right), co-pilot, of the 33rd Expeditionary Rescue Squadron, double-check their gear and instrument readings here on July 17, 2008. Both Captain Aupke and Lieutenant Ronnau are deployed from the 33rd Rescue Squadron, Kadena Air Base, Japan.



News Briefs

FIRE ALARM ACTIVATIONS IN RLBs

When the fire alarm is activated in the RLBs please contact the Fire Department at 911. All residents must evacuate the facility until the Fire Department determines that it is safe to re-enter. The rally point for personnel in these facilities is around the Route 5/6. Keep the street in front of the RLBs clear for the emergency response vehicles and their operations.

COMBAT O

Combat Orientation is Thursday at 0900Z/1330L at the Enduring Freedom Chapel. This is a mandatory briefing for all Air Force personnel assigned to Bagram Air Field. Newcomers must attend the briefing within a week of their arrival. Accountability is tracked and will be forwarded to the 1st Sergeants at the end of the Week.

COMBAT PUSH

Combat Push times are Monday, Wednesday and Friday in the Camp Cunningham Rec Tent from 0900L/0430Z to 1000L/0530Z and from 2330L/1900Z to 0030L/2000Z. Services, Comm and PERSCO will be available to sign outprocessing checklists. Personnel must complete your Post Deployment Health Questionnaire on-line and pick up your medical records at Flight Medicine/Public Health before coming to Combat Push. For more information call 431-4409.

ATTENTION ALL JUNIOR NCOS

The Bagram AF Route 5/6 meets Thursdays at 1800L/1330Z at Camp Cunningham's Town Hall. The meetings are open to all staff sergeant selects, staff sergeants and tech sergeants. Contact Tech Sgt. Scott Snedeker, 431-4404 or Staff Sgt. Tamesha Cobb, 431-4404 for more information.

MUSIC NIGHTS

Stop by the Camp Cunningham Recreation Tent to listen to your favorite genre of music...there's something for everyone. R&B Music Night is Friday at 2100L/1630Z. Country Music Night is Sunday at 1800L/1330Z. Salsa Night is Monday at 2030L/1600Z.

LAUNDRY CLAIMS

If you have lost or damaged laundry you may be wondering what to do. The first thing is to take inventory. If something is damaged or missing contact Staff Sgt Peter Wong at 455 EMSS/SVS as soon as possible. SSgt Wong is the Camp Cunningham Key Liaison between the laundry facility and KBR. KBR has 14 days to locate your missing items, if after 14 days they do not locate your goods, KBR is liable for your lost items. Liability will not exceed AAFES pricing, regardless of name brand. KBR is not liable for any loss or damage due to your own negligence. This includes, but is not limited to loss due to improper categorization, damage due to your items bleeding onto each other. Any "special" non-military items such as Under Armour or Thorlo brand clothing should be listed separately.

HOMETOWN NEWS

Airmen who are deploying or redeploying can "get the word out" about notable events related to their service via the Hometown News Program. The process is easy - individuals simply fill out, sign and return the Hometown News Release (available on the Bagram website, <http://www.bagram.afnews.af.mil>, under "Other Links") to Public Affairs (paper copy or scanned electronic copy) and PA will take care of the rest by marketing these events to their local media. Some examples of events include: award of Afghanistan Campaign Medal, NATO Medal, arrival for deployment, completion of deployment, etc. For more information, contact public affairs at 455aewpa@swa.army.mil.

CONSERVE OUR RESOURCES

Turn off Chigo (AC) units when not in your living area for an extended period of time. Turn off lights when not in use. Doing so will help conserve the amount of energy that we consume from our BAF power plant. Also, minimize the use of water during your daily operations. Three minute combat showers are in effect.

Services Activities

- ◆ First Run Movies: Sunday at 1700L, Wednesday at 1330L, and Saturday at 1600L.
- ◆ Mixed Martial Arts/Jujitsu: Sunday from 1300L to 1430L, Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 1000L to 1130L.
- ◆ Abs Workout: Monday through Friday from 1200L to 1230L.

- ◆ Capoeira/Brazilian Martial Arts: Sunday from 2000L to 2200L and Tuesday from 1630L to 1830L.
- ◆ Foosball: Monday at 1800L and Thursday at 1900L.
- ◆ Salsa: Monday from 2030L to 2230L.
- ◆ Texas Hold'em: Tuesday at 1900L, Thursday at 1330L, and Saturday at

- 1330L and 1900L.
- ◆ Dominoes: Tuesday at 2100L and Thursday at 1330L.
- ◆ Reggae Night: Wednesday from 2000L to 2300L.
- ◆ Spades: Thursday at 1800L.
- ◆ Blackjack: Thursday at 2100L.
- ◆ Bingo: Friday at 1900L.